

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for scanning radio frequency identification (RFID) data from at least one RFID tag, comprising:

a housing containing ~~at least a portion of an RFID scanner and an antenna;~~

a cable extending from the RFID scanner to a portable data terminal located external to the housing;

means for affixing the housing to a portion of an operator's body; and

means for automatically scanning said at least one RFID tag without manual intervention by the operator, including means for periodically communicating an interrogating RF signal to determine whether an RFID tag is in proximity.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said RFID scanner further comprises ~~an antenna,~~ a radio transmitter/receiver coupled to the antenna, and a processor adapted to control operation of the radio transmitter/receiver.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 4 1, wherein said housing further contains a power source adapted to provide power for said RFID scanner.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said affixing means further comprises a strap adapted to affix the housing to a wrist or hand of the operator.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising means for communicating said RFID data to an external system.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said communicating means further comprises a wireless local area network.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said communicating means further comprises an infrared link.

10. (Currently amended) A system for collecting radio frequency identification (RFID) data, comprising:

a housing containing ~~at least a portion of~~ an RFID scanner and an antenna;

a cable extending from the RFID scanner to a portable data terminal located external to the housing;

means for affixing the housing to a portion of an operator's body; and
at least one RFID tag;

wherein, the RFID scanner is adapted to scan said at least one RFID tag when disposed in proximity to said housing; and

wherein said RFID scanner periodically communicates an interrogating RF signal to determine whether an RFID tag is in proximity and thereafter automatically scans said at least one RFID tag without manual intervention by the operator.

11. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 10, wherein said RFID scanner further comprises ~~an antenna~~, a radio transmitter/receiver coupled to the antenna, and a processor adapted to control operation of the radio transmitter/receiver.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The system of Claim ~~43~~ 10, wherein said housing further contains a power source adapted to provide power for said RFID scanner.

15. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 10, wherein said affixing means further comprises a strap adapted to affix the housing to a wrist or hand of the operator.

16. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 10, further comprising means for communicating said RFID data to an external system.

17. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein said communicating means further comprises a wireless local area network.

18. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 16, wherein said communicating means further comprises an infrared link.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)